

REMARKS

The previously pending claims have been amended as to form to remove the reference numbers. Further, the independent claims have been amended to clarify certain features of the invention. Claims 25 and 26 have been added.

With reference to claims 1 and 18, the claims have clarified the invention to indicate that feeding the pressurized gas does not itself form cavitation bubbles in the plastic film. The cavitation bubbles are formed because cavitation material is mixed into the plastic and the plastic is oriented.

The forming of the cavitation bubbles by mixing cavitation material into a plastic material and stretching the film is known. However, not known or obvious is also feeding pressurized gas into the plastic film, wherein the gas diffuses into the cavitation bubbles and expands the bubbles to thus provide expanded bubbles, formed within the plastic film, the expanded bubbles containing the gas. It is this feeding of pressurized gas to form expanded bubbles containing the gas that is not previously known.

The Official Action rejects the independent claims over GB 2143772. The Official Action refers to page 3, lines 53-56 and states that the reference suggests the claimed process.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The GB reference at page 3, lines 52-53 unambiguously teaches that the proportion of the inorganic filler must be more than 13%. Lines 53-56 only give reasons for this unambiguous teaching. The GB reference does not suggest that one should produce voids that are not interconnected. Thus, any conclusion in this regard is only speculation, that speculation appearing to be generated from impermissible hindsight resulting from the teachings of the present invention. Applicants see no support for this speculation in the GB reference itself.

Further, the GB reference fails to suggest to expand bubbles by feeding a pressurized gas into the plastic film, wherein the film has cavitation bubbles formed therein.

In view of the features of the invention having been clarified by the present amendments, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

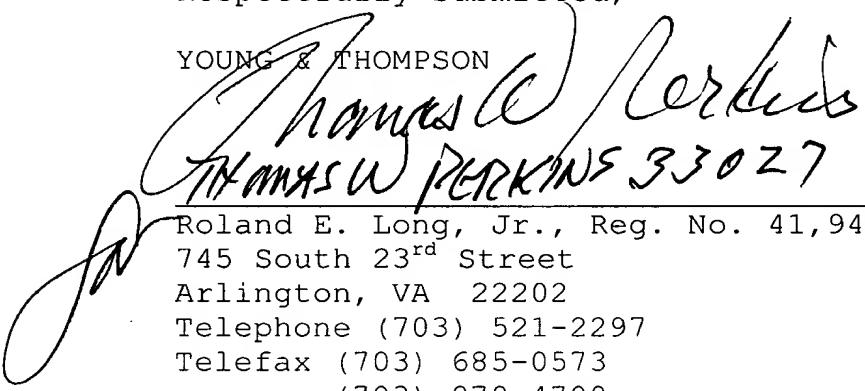
The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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